

Historic McLean



MAJOR'S HALL

One block north of the Society's Headquarters. Site of Lincoln's
Lost Speech, May 29, 1856



Historic McLean

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DEDICATION

This is dedicated to the brave men and women in the service of their country. Their history cannot yet be written. Their great deeds are countless. For thousands of years people have striven for liberty. They are fighting for it and for us.

"All honor to their names."

PREFACE TO SECOND PRINTING

"To be the first—that is the idea. To do something, say something, see something before *anybody* else—these are the things that confer a pleasure compared with which other pleasures are tame and commonplace, other ecstasies cheap and trivial."

—MARK TWAIN, "The Innocents Abroad"

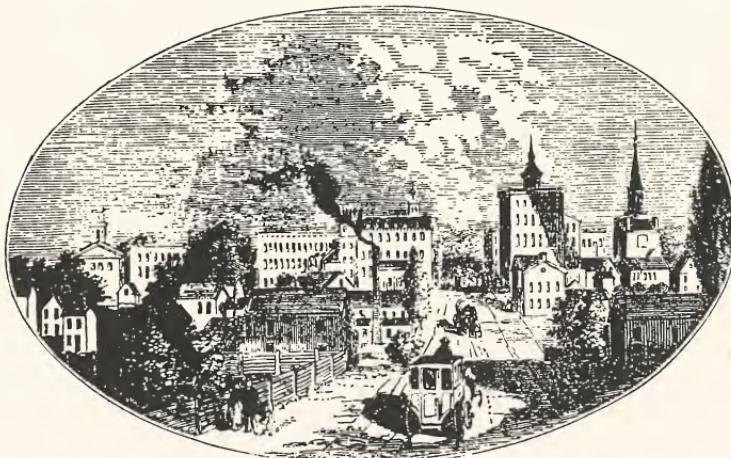
It is a pleasure to have written the first booklet of the great people and places of McLean County. We hope its incompleteness will inspire you to think of other people just as worthy as those listed and recall other places.

It has already justified itself in the interest aroused. Wesleyan through Lyle Straight is preparing a series of weekly articles in the school paper with this as a help. The Normal School system through Monroe Melton is to use it as a reference work. Our County Superintendent of Schools "Hap" Arends is using it as a reference for a more pretentious work. President Fairchild of I.S.N.U. has helped. A great many of the teachers of the city schools, as well as the County Schools, are finding it a help in stimulating interest in history. Its purpose is to arouse interest in history and our County. Until this was published by the Society there was no ready reference. It has already inspired a book of local history for school use as well as general interest which we hope will be completed. The fact that almost 3,000 copies will soon be disbursed is sufficient reason for this second printing.

To the loyal friends of the Society and to as fine a Board of Directors and officers as it has ever been our pleasure to know we may offer our thanks for its publication.

WAYNE C. TOWNLEY

BLOOMINGTON, beautifully situated on the line of the Illinois Central Railroad, is 61 miles N. E. from Springfield, and 128 S. W. from Chicago. It is regularly laid out on an undulating surface, giving a fine prospect of the fertile prairie lands in the vicinity. The city is generally very neatly



1865

North View in Bloomington.

Showing the appearance of the central part of the place, as it is entered from the north; the new Baptist Church, and the Shaffer and Landon Houses, with a portion of the old Court House, are seen on the right of the engraving; the 2nd Presbyterian and the Methodist Church on the left.

built, having the appearance of thrift and prosperity, and some of the buildings near the public square, are magnificent in their appearance. This place contains the State Normal University, the Illinois Wesleyan University, two female seminaries, several banks, 11 churches, various manufacturing establishments, and a population of about 8,000.

The first settler and father of the town, was John Allin, a native of North Carolina, who was raised in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, he having lived, in the early period of his life in each of those states. He was at first attracted to this spot by the extreme beauty of the groves. Being acquainted with the geography of the country, he found it was on a direct line from the foot of the rapids of the Illinois, near La Salle to Cairo, also from Chicago to Alton and St. Louis. These considerations induced him to locate himself on this point, believing it was destined to become one of importance. It was for a period called *Blooming Grove*, and from this circumstance Mr. Allin gave it its present name. This section of country appears to have been a favorite spot with the Indians. Mr. A. states that he had seen the signs or remains of 30 Indian villages, within a compass of 30 miles around Bloomington. At the time of his arrival, two tribes, the Kickapoos and Delawares, lived within some 15 or 20 miles. The Kickapoos were 5 or 600; the Delawares were about half that number. The Kickapoos left in 1832.

Mr. Allin came in 1829, and erected his log cabin on the edge of the timber opposite where the First Presbyterian Church now stands.

(Of course Mr. Allin was James Allin.—Editor's Note.)



PLACES TO SEE IN BLOOMINGTON AND NORMAL

A

Site of home of James Allin who founded Bloomington is McBarnes building.

Alton Shops, where the first Pullman car was built. On Sept. 1, 1859 it went from here to Chicago on its first trip.

Alton train arrived in Bloomington, October 15, 1853. Passengers bound for Chicago changed cars to Illinois Central, via LaSalle.

American House, East Front street, between East and Main, south side of street; Lincoln often stopped here. Patronage dropped off about 1840.

B

Beichs candy factory.

504 East Grove street is the former home of Judge R. M. Benjamin, lawyer, judge, teacher and author. This property was owned by the McLean County Historical Society.

And here lives Stanley Bishop "Newt Plum", and here lived his famous son, Wallace Bishop, the cartoonist, 1101 Franklin Ave., Normal.

Bloomington Cemetery. Burial site of Adlai Stevenson, James Stevenson Ewing, Joseph Nate, Ralph Potter, Letitia Green Stevenson, Julia Green Scott, Marie Litta and other famous people.

The Indianapolis and Bloomington railroad was finished May 1, 1870, now "Big 4."

Here was the home of the Bloomington "Three I" baseball team, whose manager at one time was "Tiny" Goodbread, who having lost 16 straight games answering the question: "What do you think about it," is supposed to have said "You can't win them all."

The reservoir of the Bloomington water works on West Division Street was the largest single piece of reinforced concrete without expansion joints in the world when finished in 1906. When L. C. Daniel, 808 W. Division Street, Normal, Illinois met President Coolidge in the White House some years

ago President Coolidge asked him if he knew where the largest single piece of reinforced concrete without expansion joints in the world was. Mr. Daniel did not know, but President Coolidge told him. Mr. Daniel lived 3 or 4 blocks from it.

Southwest corner of Washington and Center, site of Abram Brokaw's first plow shop. Over this shop on November 17, 1847 was held the first lodge meeting of Lodge No. 43, A. F. & A. M., the first Masonic Lodge meeting in McLean County.

First building north of The Daily Pantagraph building is old Bulletin Newspaper building.

C

Southeast corner of Washington and Center street is site of old "Central Hall". Here Lincoln lectured April 6, 1858 on "Discoveries and Inventions."

Central Illinois Female College, 1853-1857, called Wilkins' Seminary. 154 students the first year. When high school began in 1857 it was housed here at end of East street at Olive.

Otto Kadighn's "hang out" a few doors south of People's Bank with all kinds of wild game from bear meat to rice birds of South Carolina which he hung in front of the place where Governor Fifer, Karr, Ewing and the rest of the lawyers had many informal banquets. "Adam's Ark" Cigar store where Corn Belt Bank now stands was famous "hang out" of old timers. "Deschlers" Cigar store where McLean Co. Bank now is, was the meeting place for college men of later days with Vernon Ketterson and Clyde Hering

LAW NOTICE

George F. Markley and Stephen A. Douglass have associated together in the practice of law, in the McLean Circuit Court, and will promptly give their joint attention to all business, entrusted to their care, in the line of their profession.

George F. Markley,
Stephen A. Douglass

Office in the southwest room of the Court House
(Bloomington Observer and McLean County Advocate,
Jan. 13, 1838)

there to greet them. "Skeet" Cloyd was of a later date at "Bill" Anderson's.

Circuit Court where Lincoln was awarded his \$5,000 fee in the Illinois Central case in old Court House.

Circuit Court room where the oil paintings of Adlai Stevenson and Joseph W. Fifer are.

Marker of Lincoln's Circuit Riding days at East door of Court House.

Sometimes Ira Abbott was here.

"Will practice in the Justice's Court in McLean and adjoining counties. Collection and conveyancing promptly attended to. Charges reasonable. Also dealer in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes. A complete stock always on hand. The oldest established house in the village. Ladies' dress goods, hosiery, gloves, ginghams, prints, denims, ticking, etc., as low as the lowest. Highest price paid for county produce."—(History McLean Co., 1879, page 1074).

Here were General Orme and Leonard Swett.

Washington, Aug. 9, 1862

Mrs. Orme

The other day, doing some business here, I proposed to Lincoln to see Gen'l Halleck. He said let me give you card. He gave me the one I enclose. It being from a President, I am proud. I have thought a man's wife would be a proper custodian of it.

I therefore send it to you.

Yours truly,
Leonard Swett.

Gen. Halleck, please see the bearer, Mr. Swett, who will tell you truth only about Wm. W. Orme, whom I also know to be one of the most active, competent, and best men in the world.

A. Lincoln.

Aug. 2, 1862

West from Court House on Center, across south from Illinois hotel, was College Hall. In 1855 Adalaide Patti sang here when twelve years old.

Court House, statue of Gen. Gridley. The old Court House was on present site.

East side of Court House the marker to commemorate place where Lincoln's autobiography for Jesse Fell was written.

On north inside wall of Court House, the tablet to John McLean after whom this county was named.

"Old Timers" recall the creek that ran across North Main street in the 500 block. When the sewers were laid this land was filled in.

D

Mrs. Julia Green Scott and Mrs. Letitia Green Stevenson, presidents general of the Daughters of the American Revolution, lived here at the time of their terms of office.

Home of David Davis, former U. S. Judge, 1100 E. Jefferson (deceased).

Dawes street named in honor of the former vice-president who has always been a great, generous friend of historical societies. He has spoken here often.

Frederick Douglas and Owen Lovjoy stayed at home of George Dietrich which is on site of The Tilden-Hall Hotel.

Lots owned by Stephen A. Douglas are at Washington and Lee streets.

Northwest corner Taylor and Low streets, a part of Hinshaw's Grove is where Douglas spoke September 16, 1856. Lincoln and Swett were here. Douglas spoke again October 22, 1858.

Durley Hall, 2nd floor, northeast corner Jefferson and Main. This was later Durley building which was destroyed by fire.

E

The Evans planing mill was in the 500 block on the east side of Center between Market and Mulberry streets. It flourished from 1855 to 1915. It was started by John W. Evans and James W. Hayes.

Old home site of James Stevenson Ewing, Minister to Belgium, present Scottish Rite Temple.

F

"Fans Field," site of only completed 26 inning baseball game ever played in organized baseball, Decatur defeated Bloomington 2 to 1 on May 30, 1909.

Site of Jesse Fell home, East Grove street, (1853 City Directory states 91 East Grove street) near Society headquarters.

Fell Memorial Gateway at I.S.N.U.

Home of Gov. (Private Joe) Fifer and his daughter, Senator Florence F. Bohrer, first woman senator from Illinois, 909 N. McLean street.

The great Bloomington fire of 1900 started where the Association of Commerce is now located on Monroe street between Main and East (see tablet).

Flagg's chair factory flourished here between 1850 and 1860.
It was located at the corner of East and Market streets.

Franklin Avenue. The mule power cars from Normal came to Bloomington over this route.

Franklin Park, across from Stevenson home. In 1896, Bryan spoke here as well as Col. Ingersoll at a later date.

Funk Bros. Seed Company, pioneers in the Hybrid seed business, established in 1901.

The Funk Brothers Seed Co. were first manufacturers of soy bean oil and other soy bean products on the Western Continent.

G

407 East Grove street, General Grant slept here April 17, 1880.

The First Methodist Church, across from the Historical Society.
Here General Grant attended church April 18, 1880.

Home of General Gridley, one block east of McLean Co. Historical Society (the Oaks), built in 1859 for \$40,000.00.

North of Jefferson street between Roosevelt and Madison in 1832 General Gridley mustered in a small company. Afterwards they played marbles.

H

Home of Gov. John M. Hamilton, 502 South Clayton.

Marker to General James G. Harbord, General Pershing's Chief of Staff, at Court House.

Old Irving School where General Harbord attended school.
After World War I, he planted an ivy which since grew over the building.

Harbord Drive named in honor of the great soldier who is a native of this county.

At northeast corner Washington and Madison streets was Arnold House, later Hill's Hotel, later Arlington, then Tilden Hall.

Southwest corner Jefferson and Center streets, site of Interurban Station and before that the Hill House. Clint Clay Tilton was a guest here when employed on The Daily Bulletin. There may have been other famous guests but no one remembers anyone but Tilton.

Northwest corner of Center and Elm street. Site of home of Col. Harvey Hogg where Lincoln visited.

Home of Gen. Hovey. His son, Richard, wrote:

"It's always fair weather

When good fellows get together."

(See marker at 202 West Mulberry street, Normal.)

Birthplace of Elbert Hubbard, one-half block west of the McLean Co. Historical Society.

I

Illinois Central railroad. The first trip from here was an excursion on June 4, 1853, a Union Sunday School picnic to Kappa, with 300 people attending.

Illinois Hotel—General Charles G. Dawes and General James G. Harbord spoke here. President Theodore Roosevelt spoke here June 3, 1903.

L

Old Leader Newspaper was published at present site of Majestic Theater.

State Headquarters, American Legion, McBarnes building.

John B. Lennon, treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, for many years lived at 614 East Mulberry St.

Northwest corner of Jefferson and McLean streets are lots owned by Lincoln. This is the former home of Rachel Crothers.

Lincoln street named for Mr. Lincoln before he became President.

Lincoln and Douglas both spoke near tree at rear of home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Vrooman, 701 East Taylor street.

710 East Front street between Clayton and Clinton was birthplace of Marie Litta.

Site of old fair grounds (3 blocks west of McLean Co. Coal Company shaft). John A. Logan spoke there.

M

MacArthur street named in honor of the general.

Major's Hall was the place where on June 5, 1855, the Second Presbyterian Church held its first meeting. Those in the Second Church opposed slavery and they left the First largely because of this issue.

Site of Lincoln's Lost Speech. Ole Bull here Aug. 19, 1856. One block north of McLean Co. Historical Society, Major's Hall.

Major's Female College built in 1856, four stories high, entire block, end of Madison street at Union.

Joel Matteson, governor of Illinois, purchased a house where the Fellowship Hall of the First Christian Church now stands and gave it to his daughter, Mrs. Smith, in 1858, but he never lived here.

Northeast corner Front and Main street was first brick store in the city, erected in 1839 by James Miller.

The home of James F. Miller, State Treasurer of Illinois, 1856-1860, was at southwest corner of MacArthur and Madison streets. He entertained Lincoln here.

Miller Park with its fine zoo. We believe this is the only zoo in Illinois outside of Chicago and Brookfield.

Mc

The McLean Co. Historical Society, corner of East and Grove street.

The McLean Co. Historical Society has a display window in the Bloomington Federal Loan Association office, 113 North Center street.

The oil paintings in the Society's headquarters of the Indians are copies of the original paintings of George Catlin's at the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, D. C. Catlin spent many years among the Indian tribes of North America. He exhibited his gallery in America and Europe and donated his pictures to the Institution in 1879. It is thought that he visited the Kickapoos of this section in 1831. He painted six of the tribe. We have pictures of five, viz:

- (a) Ma-shee-na (meaning elk's horn) a noted Indian. He was a warrior and later a chief of a Kansas band.
- (b) Ah-tee-wot-o-mee (a woman).
- (c) Kee-an-ne-kuk (meaning foremost man) was a son-in-law of Ma-shee-na. He was a preacher and chief of the Vermilion band.
- (d) She-nah-mee (a woman).
- (e) Ah-ton-we-twck (meaning a cock turkey).

In McLean County Historical Society at McBarnes Building, The Daily Pantagraph file from 1858 to date: the issues of The Daily Bulletin from 1881 to 1926; the copies of other local papers, probably comprise the best source material in history of the kind in Illinois outside Chicago and the State Libraries.

Here you can see:

1. Lincoln letter
2. General Custer's saddle
3. Lincoln's commission to Peter Folsom
4. Sword of Lt. Governor Moore
5. Relics of Arrowsmith battlefield
6. Surgical instruments used by Dr. Smith, 1856
7. Pictures of early settlers
8. Oxen yoke and other relics of pioneer times
9. Model of locomotive and other interesting items
10. Indians relics
11. Congressional medal of honor awarded Corp. B. Sprague, Saybrook, Ill., in 1863
12. Volumes of history and hundreds of exhibits
13. Early Maps
14. German trench periscope and machine gun, donated by General Harbord
15. Cup and pitcher owned by Henry Clay
16. The bust of John F. Humphreys.

General McNulta's home, 1306 North Main.

N

Joseph Nate, fraternity historian, lived here and is buried in Bloomington cemetery.

The LaFayette, Bloomington and Mississippi Railroad, running directly east, was built between 1869 and 1872, now "Nickel Plate."

Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Ill. Ripley in his "Believe It or Not" says that Franklin avenue is the only street in the world with a university at each end.

O

Oil-O-Matic factory. Oil burners installed in Westminster Abbey, Reims Cathedral and many other noted places.

W. W. Orme home, corner of Allin and Market streets.

P

The Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co. has published the Supreme Court reports of the State of Illinois for 49 years without the confidential decisions ever "leaking out" in advance. Building in block of Illinois Hotel.

The Daily Pantagraph has furnished bound volumes of its paper to the Society from its first issue to date and in many other ways has shown its interest in our work.

Near driving park on east side (no longer in existence) in 1833 the first horse race of a mile was run.

Scottish Rite Temple, 110 East Mulberry street. Here the American Passion Play has been presented for the past twenty-two consecutive years by the Bloomington Consistory.

First brick pavement in the United States, block of Center street on Public Square. (1874).

Phoenix Hall (site of A. Livingston & Sons) erected in 1858. Lincoln spoke here. Col. Harvey Hogg funeral September 14, 1862.

Site of Phoenix Nursery, just east of Wesleyan, started in 1852. It had 600 acres and 13 greenhouses.

Corner Center and Market street. Frank Pierce lynched for killing jailor. At 9 P.M. Saturday, October 1, 1881, he was hanged from a tree there in the yard on northeast corner. There never has been a legal hanging in McLean County but Patsey Devine was hanged May 12, 1882 in Clinton for murdering Aaron Goodfellow in Bloomington. J. Preston Butler made great reputation in solving the murder.

Site of Pike House, northeast corner Center and Monroe. On May 28, 1856, Lincoln spoke here.

Site of first post office, west side of Center street, middle of block, between Front and Grove.

R

Southeast corner Front and Main. Royce Hall built in 1856.

S

Schroeder's Opera House (Gordon Cole building, east side square) built in 1866.

Home of Sidney Smith (809 East Jefferson), the creator of "The Gumps." Local tradition has it that in the early days of his career he placed one of his paintings in the window of a vacant store with a sign "For Sale \$500"—followed a few days later with the sign "Sold", but the name of the supposed buyer was never learned.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home is in Normal.

Home of State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, the largest company of its kind in the world.

Home of Vice-President Adlai E. Stevenson, 901 N. McLean street.

Tabernacle in 300 block South Main street where "Billy" Sunday held meetings, since torn down.

West side of square—"Swett and Orme" had law office.

Home of Leonard Swett, north side of West Mulberry, between Allin and Mason.

On East Front street between Gridley and McLean on the north side of the street stood a school house where Leonard Swett taught school.

T

Statue by Lorado Taft near Withers Library.

Northwest corner Washington and East streets, site of State Farm Insurance Company, Bloomington's first livery stable (1846) and later the old Castle Theater, at one time owned by Fred Walkau.

Theater just east of United Photo Shop was built in 1909 and known as Chatterton Opera House, later the Illini. Here appeared Harry Lauder, Otis Skinner and a host of other stars. The theater was formerly the site of Bloomington Mill. The United Photo Shop is site of Brokaw's second plow shop.

Home of General Gerald C. Thomas, present Chief of Marine Operations, corner of East and Beecher street.

V

Home of Carl Vrooman, first assistant secretary of agriculture under President Wilson, 701 E. Taylor.

W

Northeast corner Evans and Washington street, home of Wakefield Medicine Mfg. Co. In 1880 it gave out 1,500,000 almanacs.

Post Office lobby, Washington's Farewell Address, in bronze.

Illinois Wesleyan University, Franklin avenue, Bloomington.

And from here went Illinois Wesleyan's football team to Evans-ton in 1912 where it defeated Northwestern University 3 to 0.

Wesleyan Law School at "Old Main."

The T.K.E. National Fraternity was founded on the Illinois Wesleyan campus January 10, 1899.

Monument to the Holy Bible at Wesleyan said to be only monument to the Bible in the world.

The Illinois Wesleyan University football team defeated the University of Illinois in the first football game the U. of I. ever played. That was in 1891.

Wesleyan was the first Illinois school to take baseball teams to Florida for spring training.

Radio Station "WJBC"—a good friend of our Society—has its home in Bloomington-Normal.

The Old Woolen Mill was at northwest corner of Virginia and University streets, Normal.

Southwest corner of East and Locust street. The home of W. R. White, inventor of the White Gate (draw gate) famous fifty years ago.

Y

Sgt. York spoke at the Y.W.C.A., May 15, 1935.

Southwest corner of Main and Market "Nickelodeon" and Y.M.C.A.

"Old Main" I.S.N.U., first college Y.W.C.A. in the world organized here.

PLACES TO SEE IN McLEAN COUNTY

Points of Historic Interest in McLean County

The Kickapoos had a camp about 6 miles northeast of Le Roy. Anchor, named for the township, which was so named because trade "anchored" here in early days

Arrowsmith battlefield

Arrowsmith, named for Daniel Arrowsmith

Barnes, named for Calvin Barnes

Bellflower, named by early settlers because of the fields of bell shaped flowers

Benjaminville or Bentown, named for John R. Benjamin. This was a Quaker settlement. Negroes were brought to the town by the Quakers in the early days.

Bloomington, named from Blooming Grove, so-called from profusion of wild flowers. It was "Keg Grove" in early times.

Beautiful Lake Bloomington, about 14 miles north of the city is an artificial lake which furnishes water to the city of Bloomington.

Lake Bloomington with memorial bench in honor of Elbert Hubbard and Melvine Stone.

The Bloomington-Normal sanitary district park is a beauty spot southwest of city.

About 5 miles south of Bloomington is the marker at General Harbord's birthplace, erected by our Society.

Southeast of Bloomington is a marker to the First Settlers of Blooming Grove, "John and Jane Hendrix and John W. and Ann Dawson."

Brooks' Grove, named for Miles Brooks, Sr., a soldier of the war of 1812.

Brown's Grove, named for William Brown

Carlock, named for Rubin Carlock.

Cheney's Grove, named for Jonathan Cheney

Chenoa, the word is said to be derived from the Indian "Chenowa," meaning "White Dove"

Chenoa was the scene of famous "Kelley" bank robbery, Jan. 13, 1925.

Colfax, named for Schuyler Colfax, Vice-President of the United States, 1869-1873

Cooksville, named for Frederick Cook (Koch)

Cropsey, named for Col. A. J. Cropsey

Danvers was the last home of Adolph Funk who often drove the Conkling buggy for Mrs. Lincoln at Springfield.

Danvers, named from a town in Massachusetts (formerly called "Concord")

The stage from Danville to Pekin in "less than 3 days," fare \$10.00 one way, advertised in the Bloomington Observer, November 17, 1838. (No longer running.)

Downs, named for Lawson Downs
Dry Grove, named because there was no running water there.
Ellsworth, named for Oliver Ellsworth
Fifer, named for Governor Joseph Fifer
First Settlement McLean Co., Blooming Grove (marker)
Fletcher, named for John Fletcher
Funk's Grove, named for Isaac Funk
Garber's Grove, named for Stanley J. Garber
Gillum was named for Mary Gillum Condon.
Gridley, named for General Asahel Gridley, State Senator from the county, 1850-1854
Havens' Grove, named for Jesse Havens
Henline Fort (Lawndale) 1832
Heyworth, named for Lawrence Heyworth, a railroad stockholder and member of the English Parliament
Holder, named for Charles W. Holder
Hougham's Grove, named for Moses Hougham, early settler
Hudson, so named because many of the founders were from near Hudson, New York
Birthplace of Melville Stone at Hudson and home of Elbert Hubbard at same town.
Johnson's Grove, named for William Johnson who settled there.
Kings Mill, named for owner of mill
Le Roy, named after Le Roy, New York
LeRoy, where James Lincoln, cousin of the great president, taught the first school in 1837.
Spiritualist church and library at LeRoy, given by the Crumbaughs. The will creating them was the cause of the great law suits wherein the heirs hoped (without success) "to break the will."
Lexington, named in commemoration of the battle in the Revolutionary War
Charles A. Lindberg landed near Covell, Illinois where he leaped from his mail plane while 13,000 feet in the air, November 3, 1926.
Lytleville, "in the valley", was named for Edward Lytle
Major's Grove, named for William Major who settled there in 1835
Meadows, named for the surrounding country
Merna, named for Merna family

Money Creek Block House, west of Lexington in 1832 state road (Old Chicago Trail)

Money Creek Timber, named from the legendary story that money had been found in the creek there

Mosquito Grove, travelers who stopped there were so annoyed by mosquitoes that they named the grove, Mosquito Grove. Mosquito Township became Allin Township

Mount Hope Village and Moore's Mill

Murphy's Grove, named for Samuel Murphy

McLean, named for the county which was named for John McLean, Senator from Illinois, 1824-1825, 1829-1830

Normal, so named because it is the seat of the first State Normal school, formerly North Bloomington

Oak Grove, named because of the many oak trees

Old Town Timber, named from an old Indian town

Osman, named for Moses Osman, a railroad official

Padua, named for post office in the south, later moved to present site

"Pleasant Hill" and the Patton Cabin

Pleasant Hill, named for the pleasant surroundings

Potosi, a former post office near Cropsey

Pottowattamie Village, Hudson (marker)

Priceville, named for John Price (later known as Downs)

Randolph, named for Gardner Randolph

Rankin's Grove, named for Richard and William Rankin

Saybrook, named for the Connecticut city of that name

Selma, name of post office at Pleasant Hill

Shirley, named for a heroine in a novel

Smith's Grove, named for David Smith

Southdown, south of Downs

Springfield-Bloomington Chicago Trail

Stanford, formerly was named Allin

The Samuel Stewart House erected in 1834, southeast of Randolph, was the first brick house built in McLean county.

Stockade—Indian Fort, East and Old Town Timber (marker)

Stout's Grove, named for Ephrim Stout

Stumptown, named for the many stumps left there from the cut timber

Towanda, the word in the Delaware dialect which means "where we bury the honored dead"

Twin Grove, similiar in size to Dry Grove, therefore a "Twin Grove"

Weedman's Station, named for John Weedman, Sr.

West Park, Forrest Preserve

Wilksborough, named for town in Pennsylvania. It was in Danvers township

MCLEAN COUNTY HAS BEEN THE HOME OF FAMOUS PEOPLE

Mordeccai Abraham, a Christianized Jew, lived at the northeast corner of Linden and Poplar streets. His grandson was James R. Mann, noted Congressman.

Frank Aldrich, noted scientist and naturalist.

Orlando Aldrich at one time National Commander of the G.A.R., lived here for some years.

William F. Arny, secretary to Alexander Campbell, founder of Disciples of the Christian Church, later secretary of New Mexico territory by appointment of President Lincoln, lived on a farm on the west side of Main street in Normal just north of the C. & A. track. He was known as "Governor." Campbell invested in McLean county property and his brother-in-law, E. W. Bakewell, moved here.

Fred Ashton, song writer and band leader.*

Gov. H. C. Baldridge of Idaho, son of W. J. Baldridge, one time treasurer of McLean county.

Magoon Barnes of Lacon, Illinois, curator of oology in Field Museum of Natural History, was in school here from 1881 to 1883.

General Bartholomew, Revolutionary War hero and Indian fighter.

General Bartholomew laid out Clarksville in 1836.

Paul F. Beich, founder of Beich Candy Company.

Faye Bentley, Judge of the Juvenile Court, Washington, D. C.

James Bicket, former editor of the Chicago American attended Wesleyan.

Francis Bishop a member of Major Powell's expedition, 1871-72; made the first map of Colorado River Canyon ever drawn

from observation and notes; left from his home in Bloomington for the exploration.

Francis G. Blair, formerly Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Illinois taught school in Le Roy years ago.

Leonard "Baby" Bliss weighed 568 pounds. He toured the United States and Europe on a bicycle. Died on East Oakland avenue, January, 1912, frozen to death. Louis Eddy, Bert Davis, Lyle Funk and L. B. Merwin met him in London.

Gen. Ira J. Bloomfield of Civil War days.

Bloomington is the home of "Bill" Conroy of Boston Red Sox, Bernie Neis of Brooklyn Dodgers, Noah Henline of Washington Senators, Ed Kinsella and Harry Cassaday of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Jack Powell of the St. Louis Browns, Cliff Carroll of Boston Braves, Harold Elliott and "Bill" Welch of the Chicago Cubs.

W. K. Bracken, "Lincoln" collector.

William B. Brigham, County Superintendent of Schools, active in school work 49 years, historian and writer.

Abram Brokaw, inventor.

Eddie Bunn, Edward Heffner and Jack Barnes were three renowned jockeys who were Bloomington boys.

"Lou" Burke, internationally known painter of horses.

Sam Burnett for many years clerk of United States District Court attended Wesleyan here.

Hudson Burr, distinguished for bravery in the Civil War and later on the staff of Gen. Kautz and with Wilson on his famous ride through the south.

Curtis Callaway, nationally known lecturer and authority on embalming. Formerly instructor at the University of Minnesota. He attracted national attention in the case of Floyd Collins of Kentucky.

Charles L. Capen, famous Dean of Law.

Col. James Casner of Harvard Law Faculty.

Branch Harris Colby, civil engineer. He was nationally known.

Kate Condon, singer.

John W. Cook, noted educator, president I.S.N.U. 17 years and later president DeKalb Normal.

The four Cotter boys lived in section house in Towanda built for their father. William was later president of the Pere Marquette, Stephen was vice-president of Wabash and general manager, John was chief dispatcher for P. & P. U. at

Peoria, George was general manager of Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

Generals Covell and Gridley laid out LeRoy.

Rev. Frank Crane, noted newspaper writer and churchman, lived on East Grove street.

Rachel Crothers, famous playright wrote more than 30 successful plays.

Delmar Duane Darrah, 33°, Puissant Grand Lieutenant Commander, A.A.S.R., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A., who had directed the American Passion Play, Dickens Christmas Carol, and many other great productions, and who was the Active 33° Mason for Illinois when he died March 5, 1945.

David Davis (deceased) U. S. Judge of Supreme Court.

Louis E. Davis, of World War I, after whom the local Legion Post was named, was killed in service.

A. J. Davidson, once president of the Frisco and later president of the Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railroad.

Clinton J. Davisson, Nobel prize winner in physics, lived here and his mother and sister are still in Bloomington.

*A few Delewares were here until after 1829.

Gen. Dick of the Civil War.

Dr. Fred Dodge, one time dentist to the Court of Austria, and his brother, Walter, who made a fortune out of the discovery of "Tiz" the foot remedy, both lived in Chenoa.

"Billy" Darnborough left Bloomington in 1895 and played at Monte Carlo in 1912. There he came near breaking the bank. According to tradition he broke it but no one ever did. It is said that \$270,000,000 changed hands in his 6 months of play. He lives as a county gentleman on his estate near London. He is a cousin of Clark Griffith.

Although Stephen A. Douglas had a law office here and purchased lots in Bloomington there is nothing to indicate that he ever intended to live here.

Dr. Richard Edwards, well known educator and at one time president of Illinois State Normal University.

Dr. Norman Elliott, who with "Brick" Young, are considered the greatest athletes the county ever produced, live here.

James Stevenson Ewing, American Minister to Belgium.

Bishop Fallows, one time president of Illinois Wesleyan University.

Jesse Fell, the first lawyer of Bloomington, who was regarded by many as the greatest man of the earliest days of the county. Lincoln wrote his first autobiography for Fell.

Wilbert Ferguson, "the grand old man" of Wesleyan was a great influence in the life of many men and women.

"Private" Joe Fifer, Governor of Illinois.

Arthur J. Fischer whose picture is the only other one in the painting at the White House with General Pershing. Aid to General Pershing for many years.

Judge FitzHenry, judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, spent his life here.

The Flying Wards of circus fame.

Elizabeth Irons Folsom, winner of O. Henry Award in 1923.

Antionette Funk, noted lawyer.

Frank Funk, "Bull Moose" candidate for governor in 1912.

Isaac Funk, famous for defense of Lincoln and the Union.

Dr. Watson W. Gailey, internationally known eye specialist. He was sent to India by the British Government where he performed hundreds of cataract operations.

Arthur Gillespie, noted song writer.

Rev. J. H. Gilliland, great Christian preacher and builder of four churches in Bloomington and Normal.

George Goforth whose Black and Gold Band played at the White House reception at the inauguration of President Harding.

Frederic William Goudy, born at 604 or 608 East Jefferson street, was considered to be the world's leading type designer.

Walter H. Graves with Major Powell and surveyor of many western railroad lines, was here here in the early eighteen seventies.

General Gridley and James Brown founded Lexington.

Clark Griffith, famous pitcher and owner of the Washington "Senators."

Justice Walter T. Gunn of Danville, Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, studied law here.

And also a well known character who is supposed to have loaned money to a local religious organization, and when asked on his death bed if he "belonged" to the certain church replied: "no, it belongs to me."

Gov. John M. Hamilton, Governor of Illinois.

Kate Waterman Hamilton, writer of children's books.

Gen. James G. Harbord, Gen. Pershing's Chief of Staff. See marker erected by McLean County Historical Society four miles southeast of Bloomington and tablet at Court House.

Bishop Hartzell, Bishop of Africa.

J. L. (Jake) Hasbrouck, author, newspaper man and historian. Charles Hasenwinke, known as "Carl Haswin" before the foot-lights, lived in Normal and graduated from Wesleyan in 1873.

Dr. Bert Hempstead, noted doctor at Mayos.

President John W. Henninger first president of the Western Illinois State Normal School at Macomb and one of the very able men of that school.

Jesse Hibbs, All-American football star of Southern California, was formerly of Normal.

Harvey Hogg, Civil War hero, whose funeral was one of the largest ever held in the county. Lincoln visited at his home.

Dr. J. R. Holbert, noted authority on Hybrid seed corn.

Merrill Holmes of Wesleyan, chaplain of the "old fighting 69th Regiment" of New York, veteran of Argonne and other great battles.

Campbell Holton, pioneer wholesale grocer and civic leader.

Gen. Charles E. Hovey, first president of Illinois State Normal University, who left the presidency to raise a regiment of soldiers in the Civil War where he was a hero.

Dr. Harry Howell, first commander of the Louis E. Davis Post of the American Legion and medical officer in the Navy on the Leviathan in World War I.

Elbert Hubbard, who lost his life on the Lusitania many years after writing his "Message to Garcia."

Marvin Hughitt head of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

S. B. Hursh of the Macomb Normal, acting president at one time and an outstanding man.

Margaret Illington, great actress, whose home was at northeast corner of Prairie and Front street in the brick house.

Edmund James, president of the University of Illinois, graduated from I.S.N.U.

"Buffalo" Jones lived here.

Edgar DeWitt Jones, noted minister and writer.

Kadel and DeMoley bands.

Charles R. Keeran of Bloomington invented the Ever-Sharp pencil, the first successful mechanical pencil.

Leonidas H. Kerrick, member of Major Powell's exploring expedition and lawyer, lived in Bloomington.

Thomas C. Kerrick, lawyer, senator and member of the Constitutional Convention.

The Kickapoos were here from 1822 to 1829 in large numbers.
"Bert" Kitchell, "the sage of Heyworth."

Alfred Klotz, noted portrait painter of Paris, started here.

Lewis Keplinger was another member of Major Powell's expedition in 1868 and one of the first who ascended Long's Peak, graduated from Wesleyan.

Ward H. Lamon, later United States Marshal, Washington, D. C., who accompanied Lincoln through Baltimore on the way to the inauguration who practiced law here.

John Leech, organizer of the first American printing press in the Philippine Islands, which office was the model for all the world.

Although another great lawyer purchased lots here, there is nothing to indicate that he expected to live here, although here were many of his best friends. He lost Sangamon county in 1860 and 1864 in his contest for the presidency but carried McLean county in 1860 by a majority of 985 and carried it in 1864 by a majority of 1,417.

"Jake" Lindley, lawyer, teacher and idol of his student lawyers.

Marie Litta, "The Jenny Lind of America." She is buried in the Bloomington cemetery.

Richard Henry Little attended Bloomington high school. Conductor of the "A Line o' Type," Chicago Tribune and war correspondent.

Senator Scott Lucas attended Wesleyan here.

Hugh Magill, nationally known leader in education, religion and business, studied in Bloomington, where he lived several years.

George Marton leader of the Bloomington Band for the last 31 years. Also noted for his great acting.

Ma-shee-na (or Machina), a well known Kickapoo Indian, was here in 1824. He ordered the white people to the southside of the Sangamon. (As we go to press the white people are still here).

G. J. Mecherle, founder and "Chief" of the State Farm Insurance Companies.

J. D. Mikel of Carlock has saddled more winners than anyone in the United States, according to his friends.

- Alfred Montgomery, painter of corn.
- Lt. Gov. John Moore, hero of the Mexican War.
- Paul Scott Mowrer and Edgar Ansel Mowrer, editors and war correspondents.
- Judge Colostin D. Myers who with his wife gave so generously to charity (see tablet at Court House).
- Bert McCann, Clerk of the House of Representatives for many years lived and died here.
- Major Richard McCauley, well known head of Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home, now deceased.
- Col. William McCullough accepted into the army with only one arm and with only one good eye. He died a hero. Lincoln's letter to his daughter is one of the finest ever written.
- Frank McKee, cornetist.
- Professor Frank McMurray of Columbia.
- Gen. John McNulta, buried in the Bloomington cemetery.
- General William K. Naylor born in Bloomington, November 24, 1874.
- Vernon L. Nickell known as "Big Nick" now the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Illinois and very much interested in historical matters; was a "star" athlete at Wesleyan in "the good old days."
- James A. Northrup, noted Missionary to India.
- Paul Norton, very successful and influential citizen of Seattle, Washington and brother of Mrs. Walgreen, lived in Normal.
- Mrs. Kate Orendorff of Heyworth, aunt of General Harbord, Vice-President of the local Historical Society, almost 95 years old.
- Gen. Orme, Civil War hero.
- Albert H. Overman, inventor and manufacturer of Victor bicycles, lived at Normal.
- Wesley M. Owen, Supreme Judge of the Panama Canal Zone.
- Pawnee Bill when a youth lived on the south side of Bloomington.
- Isaac N. Phillips for 16 years reporter of the Illinois Supreme Court; Samuel Irwin, reporter from 1910 to 1940, and Edwin Cooke, present reporter, have all been residents of Bloomington.
- Some Pottawatomies were here in 1829.
- John Wesley Powell, noted explorer, a hero of Shiloh, where he lost an arm; later at Wesleyan and Normal.

Ezra M. Prince, historian, and Captain Burnham who accomplished so much for the Local and State Historical Societies in the early days.

Charlie Radbourne—"Old Hoss Radbourne," the greatest baseball pitcher who ever lived, winner of 40 consecutive baseball games.

Rudolph Rex Reeder, teacher and writer, sent to Serbia to educate 50,000 orphans.

Paul Rhymer of "Vic and Sade" in radio, popular Sigma Chi, lived at 614 West Monroe street.

Captain Christian Riebsame was one of the twelve charter members of the first G.A.R. organization.

Theodore G. Risley, acting Secretary of Labor under President Harding, now of Mt. Carmel, Illinois, went to school here.

James Harvey Robinson, professor of history at Columbia and his brother, Benjamin Lincoln Robinson, professor of botany at Harvard.

Will H. Robinson, author of books on Western life.

William Rockwell who invented the sickle blade used on reaping and mowing machines.

John L. Routt, later governor of Colorado.

The Prima Donna—Madame Salzman-Stevens.

Eugene Savidge won the "Prix de Rome" at an early age.

Simon E. Schroeder, inventor of washing machine and swinging wringer.

Justice John M. Scott, for 18 years a member of the Illinois Supreme Court, the first president of the McLean Co. Historical Society.

Dr. Walter Dill Scott, former president of Northwestern University, lived in McLean county and Dr. John Scott of the same school.

James Shaw, noted chautauqua organizer and platform agent.

"Billy" Shelpner, founder of several missions.

Cyril Shepherd, war reporter, now with Admiral Nimitz in the South Pacific.

"Johnny" Skelton nationally known cornetist with concert company of Marie Litta and other great singers.

Dr. E. P. Sloan, noted goiter surgeon.

Col. Smith of Normal.

Gen. Giles Smith, veteran of the Civil War.

Stephen Smith who was in the Dry Goods Business in Bloomington died here April 8, 1897. His brother C. M. Smith and Abraham Lincoln married sisters. Stephen Smith lived in the Lincoln home when he was a resident of Springfield. Lincoln wrote letters of introduction to Bloomington residents about Stephen Smith before he decided to locate here. Lincoln wrote many letters in his life time but he was not a man to solicit advice from others. Illustrating Lincoln's reticence in confiding in others the story is told that someone objected to Lincoln telling a judge too much of his plans but Lincoln told the following story:

"They had side judges down in New Hampshire, and to show the folly of the system, one who had been a side judge for twenty years said the only time the chief judge ever consulted him was at the close of a long day's session, when he turned to the side judge and whispered, 'Don't your back ache?' " (Powers Moulton, p. 391.)

Senator O. H. Browning in his diary (vol. II, page 24) wrote: "In conversation with Judge Davis about Mr. Lincoln he spoke of some of his characteristics, saying he had neither strong friendships nor enmities, and that he had never written him (Davis) a line, nor asked his opinion upon any subject since he was elected President. That pending the election he wrote him very often but had never done so since—that he often talked to the President, and gave him his opinions very freely, but that he would sit with his head down and make no reply."

William Hawley Smith, author, "All the Children of all the People."

Col. Sobieski, claimant to the Polish throne.

Hamilton Spencer, great lawyer, president of the Alton Railroad, director American Express Co., who worked out "through freight" service from coast to coast and "through" checking of baggage.

John A. Sterling, noted Congressman from this district.

Thomas Sterling, United States Senator from South Dakota.

Adlai E. Stevenson, vice-president of the United States.

Louis G. Stevenson, secretary of state.

Melville E. Stone, of Associated Press fame.

Corp. Jack Story captured by the Japs after Pearl Harbor and a prisoner of theirs for years, who escaped and reached Bloomington December 14, 1944 after almost 3 years of hardships, lived at 109 Kelsey street.

Walter Stout, president of the Dominion Express Company.
Leonard Swett, probably the greatest trial lawyer the northwest ever produced. Thurlow Weed in his autobiography (p. 602) says that Swett "contributed more than all others to his (Lincoln's) nomination." When he died (then a resident of Chicago) the Chicago Mail, June 11, 1889, wrote that the funeral "was one of the largest ever tendered a private citizen in the city of Chicago and a more distinguished audience never assembled in the city." The list of honorary pallbearers was headed by the governor of the state and included both United States senators of Illinois, Chief Justice of the United States, mayor of Chicago, Judge of United States Circuit Court, Judge of the United States District Court and many others. Whitney wrote "Lincoln thought more of Swett as a man than any other in Illinois during the war." (Vol. II., p. 347.)

Lyman Tay, personal guard for Alguinaldo during Philippino insurrection.

General Gerald Thomas lived here and attended Wesleyan University.

Frank Hall Thorpe, professor of chemistry at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Clint Clay Tilton, public spirited citizen of Illinois; "first citizen of Danville"; former president of Illinois State Historical Society; "superintendent of Maple Grove Academy"; author; former newspaper man of Bloomington.

Sir William Van Horne, knighted by Queen Victoria for his work in the building of the Canadian National Railroad.

Carl Vrooman, first Assistant Secretary of Agriculture under President Wilson.

Grace Wagner, singer.

Harry Waite, historian of local Spanish American War records.

Myrtle Norton Walgreen, widow of the founder of the Walgreen drug stores, was a school girl of Normal. She now lives at beautiful Hazelwood near Dixon, Illinois.

W. W. Wallis, well known school man and historian, Dean at Wesleyan.

"Billy" Welch was the highest priced player of his day in the National League (\$3,750 a year), later became a very successful merchant here.

Judge Lawrence Weldon, Chief Justice of the United States Court Claims. His home was at 407 E. Grove street.

- Col. Frank D. Whipp, noted prison authority.
- Portable elevators invented by W. R. White and son, John, here in Bloomington and first manufactured here. John White invented the first lock cap for motormeters.
- William H. Wilder, president of Wesleyan and for years president of the Methodist College at Washington, D. C.
- Louis L. Williams for 17 years "Judas" in the Passion Play.
- R. E. Williams, noted lawyer.
- Walter Williams, noted inventor.
- Fred "Brick" Young, nationally known sports authority and "Big Ten" official.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- The Academy of Music, ground floor with restaurant beneath, on Main near Market, lighted by gas with seating for 1500 opened April 8, 1868, admission \$3.00 with Kadel's band and program. One week later a Japanese troupe appeared. Destroyed by fire September 9, 1871.
- The Bloomington Female Seminary, composed of the "fairest daughters of Mother Eve," gave a concert June 18, 1858.
- "Buffalo Bill's" Wild West Show here on May 24, 1883 at Old Fair Grounds.
- The Castle theater opened earlier but dedicated a \$5,000 pipe organ August 24, 1910 and advertised as the "Home of the Pipe Organ." The building was removed May 1915 and site remained vacant for many years until the State Farm built.
- The Centre Hall, third floor of southeast corner of Washington and Center streets, was finished December 10, 1857, had seats "with backs" for 350 people. Abraham Lincoln lectured to the Young Men's Association April 7, 1858, beginning his talk with the sentence: "The whole creation is a mine and men are the miners."
- The Chatterton was opened April 7, 1910. Attendance included in the boxes Prof. O. R. Skinner, Clark Stewart, Miss May Christian, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Harber, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Staten, the Braleys and the O'Donnells, the Louis Stevensons, the Payne Lowells and the L. B. Merwines with many others.
- The Coliseum contract to build was let June 1898. The height at the point in the center was 54 feet. It was dedicated

December 27, 1898 when 1,200 people paid \$1 a ticket. Theodore Roosevelt spoke here in 1903.

College Hall at the southwest corner of Center and Jefferson opened early. The Western Law and Medical College started here in September 1853, under the direction of Dr. J. R. Freese who compiled the 1854 City Directory.

Gentleman "Jim" Corbett was later here with George Evans' Honey Boy Minstrels. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" appeared in 1912, with ten blood hounds well supported by the rest of the cast. It was later discovered that Little Eva did not really die but left on the train the next day. Maude Adams in "Peter Pan" and James K. Hackett in "The Grain of Dust" were here in 1913. In 1914 George McManus' original cast "Bringing Up Father" arrived. In 1915 moving pictures appeared for the first time at this theater. "The Birth of a Nation" was shown in 1916. Weber and Fields; the "Copperhead" with Lionel Barrymore; DeWolf Hopper; Ethel Barrymore; Guy Bates Post; Walter Hampden in "Hamlet"; Jane Cowl, later appeared in turn. (Those were the good old days—never to return).

Charles Dazey, noted playwright, author of "In Old Kentucky," spoke here January 25, 1938.

"Dizzy" Dean played at Wilder Field in the nineteen forties.

On May 3, 1900, several thousand people saw Admiral Dewey "The Hero of Manila" and his wife. The train stopped for 30 seconds while they came out on the platform and acknowledged the great cheering and the booming of cannon.

Durley Hall had Marie Litta June 27, 1879, netting \$50. Edwin Booth as Brutus, appeared April 25, 1888.

At the Durley Hall and Schroeder Opera House in 1881 there were bookings of Joseph Jefferson, Nat Goodwin, Buffalo Bill, Forepaugh's, McIntyre and Heath's Minstrels.

Walter Eckersall was here many times as a football official.

Mrs. Deane Funk, pianist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, played at the Coliseum May 22, 1914.

Mme. Galli-Curci, soprano, was at the Coliseum under the auspices of the D.A.R. on May 15, 1925.

Mary Garden was here November 27, 1922 and Frieda Hempel April 2, 1924.

John B. Gough appeared in Major's Hall December 25, 1855, with an eulogy on water.

20,000 of the Grand Army of the Republic were here in 1881. This was one of the greatest occasions of our history. General U. S. Grant spent three days here (September 6, 7 and 8) as the guest of Judge Lawrence Weldon, 407 East Grove street.

"The Grand Opera House" on Market street near East cost \$35,000, held 1,297 people, had 700 electric lights and was started in 1890. It opened February 2, 1891 with "Robin Hood". Boxes were occupied by Charles and Deane Funk, Miss Laura McCurdy, Miss Julia Hodge, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. DeMange, Judge Scott, John Eddy and others. In 1907 George W. Chatterton and Charles T. Hickox bought it and on May 1, 1909 it burned. It was succeeded by the Chatterton Opera House.

William Henry Harrison, descendant of two presidents, spoke at the Society Headquarters May 26, 1936.

The History and Art Club is the oldest club in this area, having been formed in 1879.

Joseph Hofman, pianist, was at the high school Nov. 17, 1919.

Judge Hooker (Earl Ross) on "The Great Gildersleeve" radio program joined the Bloomington Consistory in March, 1919. He often visits here with his friend, D. D. Darrah.

On September 17, 1890 the Illinois State Fair was held in Bloomington.

Illinois State Normal University opened in Major's Hall October 5, 1857.

Al Jennings, famous outlaw of old west, pardoned by "Teddy" Roosevelt, was at the old Majestic.

Fritz Kreisler, the great violinist, was here March 6, 1917 and again February 5, 1934 at the Coliseum.

President Lincoln's funeral train left Chicago May 2, 1865, for Springfield. The president was shot April 14 and died April 15. The train arrived at Bloomington at 5 o'clock a.m. May 3, a large arch over the track bore the inscription, "Go to Thy Rest." At the depot was draped mourning, and about 5,000 persons were assembled to pay tribute to him. At Funks Grove where the train arrived at 5:30, guns were fired and bells were tolled while a choir of ladies sang.

The Lincoln funeral train stopped at Bloomington only a few minutes but of course the people did not go aboard. (The Daily Pantagraph, May 4, 1865).

C. R. Waller, Esq.

Bloomington, Sept 27. 1852.

Dear Sir

I am in a little trouble here - I am trying to get a decree for our "Billy the Barber" for the conveyance of certain town lots so as to have by Allen & Giddley, our Notaries, I made you a party, as admittance of Plaintiff, but the Clerk omitted to put your name in the writ, and so you are not named - Billy will blow over, if I do not get the thing fixed up this time. If therefore you will be so kind as to sign the authority below, and send it to me, by returning, I shall be greatly obliged, and will be careful that you shall not be involved, or your rights injured by it.

Yours very
T. Lincoln

The Billy the Barber alluded to in this letter, was an old colored man who lived here a barber by profession. He also played the flute at the evening entertainments - In those days our music on such occasions was the Flute Piano Violin or harp & Billy often played or served on the Table at my mother's home Entertainments - My Father in connection with Allen & Giddley laid off an addition to Bloomington - He gave Billy two lots in consideration that he shave him during his life time, which Billy did, and he also shaved him at the time of his death which failed to have his deed recorded & lost it - a fact he did not discover until after the death of my Father he then got Mr Lincoln to get one other - This was the witness to one of my Father's Estate - The widow of old Billy sold the lots some years after his death for \$2500. Some of his children are still living here.

Thos. G. Frickett

Sept 1912 -

Courtesy Illinois State Historical Society.

Bloomington, Sept 27. 1852.

C. R. Welles, Esq.

Dear Sir:

I am in a little trouble here—I am trying to get a decree for our "Billy the Barber" for the conveyance of certain town lots sold to him by Allin Gridley and Prickett—I made you a party, as administrator of Prickett, but the Clerk omitted to put your name in the writ, and "so you are not served—Billy will blame me, if I do not get the thing fixed up this time—if, therefore you will be so kind as to sign the authority below, and send it to me, by return mail, I shall be greatly obliged, and will be careful that you shall not be involved, or your rights waived by it—

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

The Billy the barber—alluded to in this letter, was an old colored man who lived here, A barber by profession. He also played the flute at the Evening Entertainments—In those days our Music on such occasions, was the flute Piano Violin or harp & Billy often played or Served on the Table at my Mothers home Entertainments—My Father in connection with Allin & Gridley laid off an Addition to Bloomington—He gave Billy two Lots, in Consideration that he shave him during his life Time; which Billy did. And he also shaved him at the time of his death. Billy failed to have his deed recorded & lost it—a fact he did not discover until after the death of My Father He then got Mr Lincoln to get another—Wells was the Administrator of My Father's Estate—The widow of old Billy sold the lots Some years after his death for \$2500—Some of his chidren are still living here.

Thos. G. Prickett

Sept 1912

Springfield, Feb 10. 1860.
Mr W Packard Esq
Dear Sir

William Florville, a colored barker here, owns four lots in Bloomington, on which I have been paying the taxes for him several years, but which I forgot to do, though knew moreover, when I was at Bloomington last - Will you please collect the ten dollars for me spots of account of you on my, pay see taxes due, and send me the receipt, or receipts? If you will I shall be greatly obliged; and besides, will return you the money you advanced by the first mail -
William Thomas, Garrison, and others
then know about these lots -

Yours truly
Lincoln

Courtesy Illinois State Historical Society.

Charles R. Welles was dismissed as a defendant (see Docket 5, page 181) on October 2, 1852 and on July 19, 1853 (see Docket 5, page 350) Florville received his deed.

Springfield, Feb 10-1860.

Mr. W. Packarad, Esq

Dear Sir:

William Florville, a colored barber here, ownes four lots in Bloomington, on which I have been paying the taxes for him several years, but which I forgot to, though under promise, when I was at Bloomington last—Will you please collect the ten dollars fee we spoke of, add enough of your own money, pay all taxes owed, and send me the receipt, or receipts? If you will I shall be greatly obliged; and besides, will return you the money you advanced by the first mail—

William Thomas, Larrimore, and others there know about these lots—

Yours truly

A.. Lincoln

Billy the barber deeded these lots together with two others lots adjoining them to the Trustees of the Illinois Wesleyan University by Warranty Deed, June 6, 1867 for \$4,000.00. The lots are at the southwest corner of Locust and Main and the southeast corner of Locust and Center.

Because of interest in Sarah Bush Lincoln and Thomas Lincoln the step-mother and father of Abraham Lincoln as reflected by the February 1945 article in the Reader's Digest, Mr. Williams has suggested that McLean county should have the credit for the marking of the Thomas Lincoln trail and the erection of the monument over their graves at Shiloh Cemetery near Mattoon and has asked that a word be included about it. The book "Lincoln Traveled This Way" by Holmes; the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, April 1924 and the Illinois Central Railway Magazine for February 1927 have detailed accounts. When Wayne C. Townley went to Mattoon in 1923 there was no trail marked and there had never been a monument over her grave and the one over his was not in keeping with the son's place in history. He urged the Mattoon Lions Club to mark the Trail which it soon did. He then made a written contract with the cemetery trustees, agreeing to raise the funds for a monument. As District Governor of the Lions of the State of Illinois, he spoke to every club in the state and in less than a year had raised \$3,000 through their whole hearted cooperation. The dedication was May 16, 1924 at which time Governor Lowden, Doctor William E. Barton, and Judge Garner delivered the addresses with Mr. Townley presiding. The projects were conceived in Bloomington and carried out from Bloomington and as such McLean county is entitled to that credit.

The old Methodist Church held the first classes for Wesleyan. It was razed in 1909 for the Majestic theater.

Mme. Lillian Nordica, soprano, was at Coliseum April 30, 1906 and at the Chatterton January 23, 1912.

Ignace Jan Paderewski, noted pianist, played at the Coliseum on March 8, 1905 and again April 27, 1931. He and many other great artists came here because of the Amateur Musical Club.

Phoenix Hall was inaugurated by a Republican mass meeting, October 22, 1858. Pullen's brass band gave the concert and Leonard Swett gave the address. Schulyer Colfax spoke October 29. Horace Greeley spoke on "The Great Men of the Country" in December. Kadel's string band later played here. Memorial services for Stephen A. Douglas were held here June 3, 1861. From 1875 to 1880 fairs, roller skating and a walking tournament were held. A wrestling match for \$200 stakes was once held here.

Royce's Hall was the scene of indignation where the reserve seat plan was started with seats for 50c instead of the usual 25c.

Madame Saltzman-Stevens had her homecoming concert November 14, 1910.

At the Schroeder Opera House Fanny Kemble appeared. Ralph Waldo Emerson appeared March 5, 1867 for a fee of \$75.00. One newspaper reported the visit of "Ralph Cold-Dough Simmerson." Hon. Charles Sumner was here October 21, 1867.

Mme. Schumann-Heink, contralto, was at the Coliseum November 19, 1909 and again January 12, 1934.

John Philip Sousa and his band appeared at the Chatterton, October 22, 1920; The Illini, November 3, 1924 and the Bloomington High School, September 17, 1929.

Turner Hall or Turn Halle, 315-319 South Main, is well known. The Washington Hall, southwest corner Washington and East, featured W.C.T.U. programs. The club had 5,000 names on its temperance roll.

Docket 2, page 203, Circuit Clerk's office

Ex parte Henry Wells

"This day on behalf of Henry Wells, a negro man of the age of thirty-four years, in height five feet and three inches and one-fourth of an inch, having a Scar from a kick on the right cheek of a rosy dark colour and stout built habit steady and of cheerful countenance, Satisfactory evidence is produced by the production of the original deed of Manumission of John F. Henry of date the seventeenth day of March, A.D. 1841 and other evidence that he the said Henry Wells, hath been manumitted and set free from slavery and it is ordered that the freedom of said Henry Wells be certified by the Clerk of this Court;" and this about 100 years ago.



LINCOLN MEMORIAL MEETING
Bloomington, April 16, 1865



EXPLANATION OF MAP

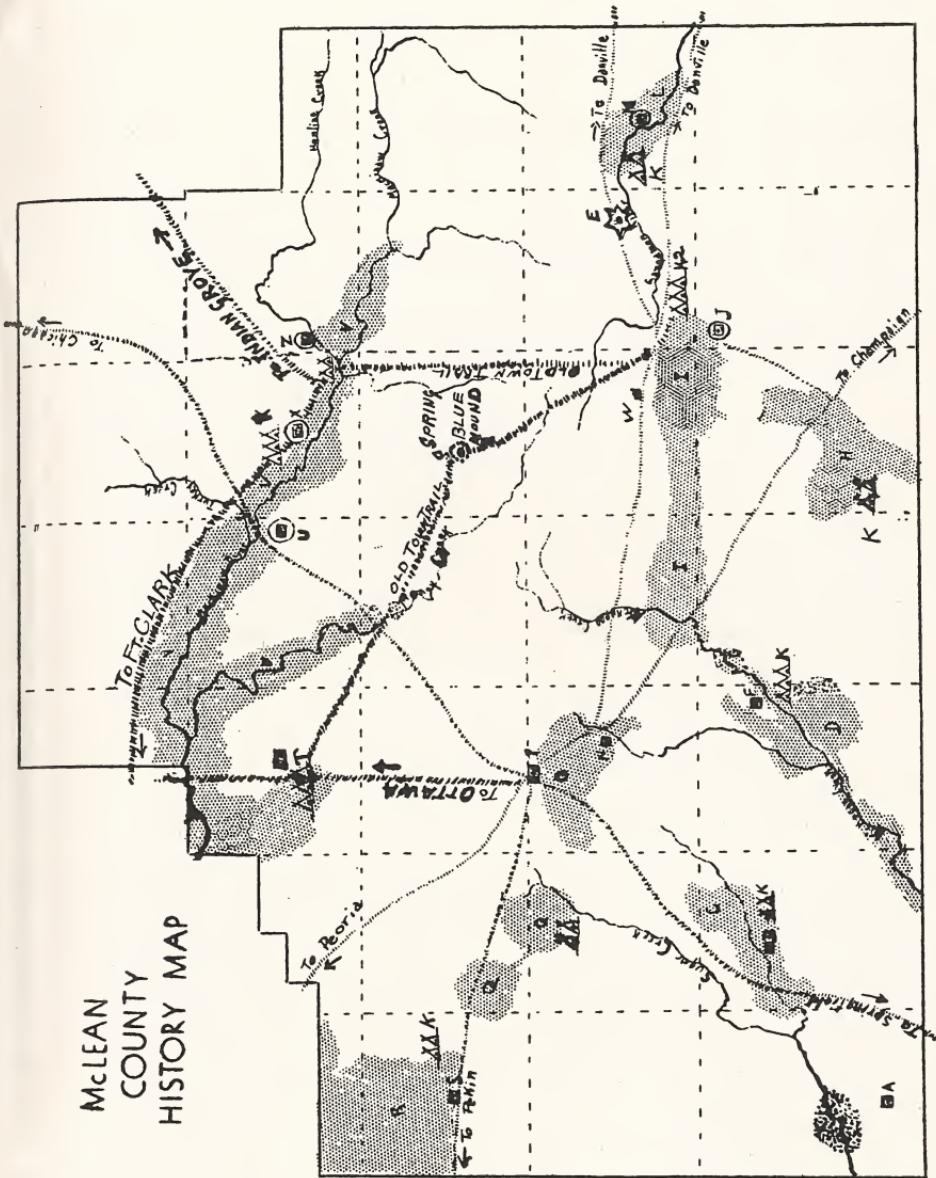
By WILLIAM B. BRIGHAM

Ex. PRESIDENT, MCLEAN CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This early McLean county map shows streams and wooded areas where the Indians had villages or campsites and locations of the first white settlements. On this map are marked the old Indian trails and early roads, some of which became permanent highways. Key letters or figures indicate places or events as follows:

- [A] Village of Mt. Hope-Rhode Island Colony (1837)
- [B] Isaac Funk settled here (1824)
- [C] Funk's Grove
- [D] Randolph Grove
- [E] Arrowsmith battlefield (1730)
- [F] Gardner Randolph settled here (1823)
- [G] Diamond Grove
- [H] Buckles Grove, Thomas Buckles (1827)
- [I] Old Town Timber
- [J] Stockaded Indian fort
- [K] Kickapoo villages or camps
- [K2] Old Indian town
- [L] Cheney's Grove, settled by Jonathan Cheney (1825)
- [N] John Dawson and John Hendryx settled here in (1822). The first white settlers
- [O] Blooming Grove
- [P] Bloomington laid out in 1831, to be the county seat of McLean county
- [Q] Twin Grove and Dry Grove
- [R] Stouts Grove
- [S] Ephraim Stout settled here (1825)
- [T] Pottawatomie Village, Hudson Colony (1836)
- [V] Mackinaw and Money Creek Timber
- [W] Dawson's Tavern on the Trail

MCLEAN COUNTY HISTORY MAP



MCLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ORGANIZED MARCH 10, 1892

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*Bohrer, Mrs. Florence Fifer	Edwards, Miss Ellen
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 Ensign, Preston
 Ensenberger, G. L.
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 Eyer, Lloyd E.
 *Ewing, Hazel Buck
 *Ewing, Mrs. Spencer

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 Faglier, Stanley
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 Faugust, R. A.
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 Funk, Deane N.
 Funk, Mary B.

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 Oesch, Wm.
 Orendorff, Mrs. Kate
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 Peffer, John
 Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.
 Phelps, Wilbur
 Pines, H.
 *Pratt, Harry E.
 Prillaman, Karl
 Quinn, James P.
 *Raber, Dr. D. D.
 Randall, R. D.
 *Read, R. S.
 Read, Wm. G.
 Rich, S. H.
 *Richmond, Miss Martha
 Robinson, Geo. E.
 Roderick, Mabel
 Rogers, John
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 Roland, Mrs. W. H.
 *Rolley, Elias W.
 Roop, Frank
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 Ryan, R. E.
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 Saikley, S.
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- Sendelbach, E.
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 Sill, Elmer D.
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 Smith, Don
 Smith, Frank L.
 Smith, Ralph Linden
 Smith, R. H.
 Snow, Mr. & Mrs. C. H.
 Spafford, Wm. C.
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 Seibel Bros.
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 Stichter, George
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 Stephenson, C. A., Sr.
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 Struck, E. C.
 Stubblefield, Ivan
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 Sutter, E. J.
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 Thal, J. L.
 Tappe, Nina M.
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 Townley, Mrs. C. S.
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 Wakefield, Sherman D.
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* Life members.

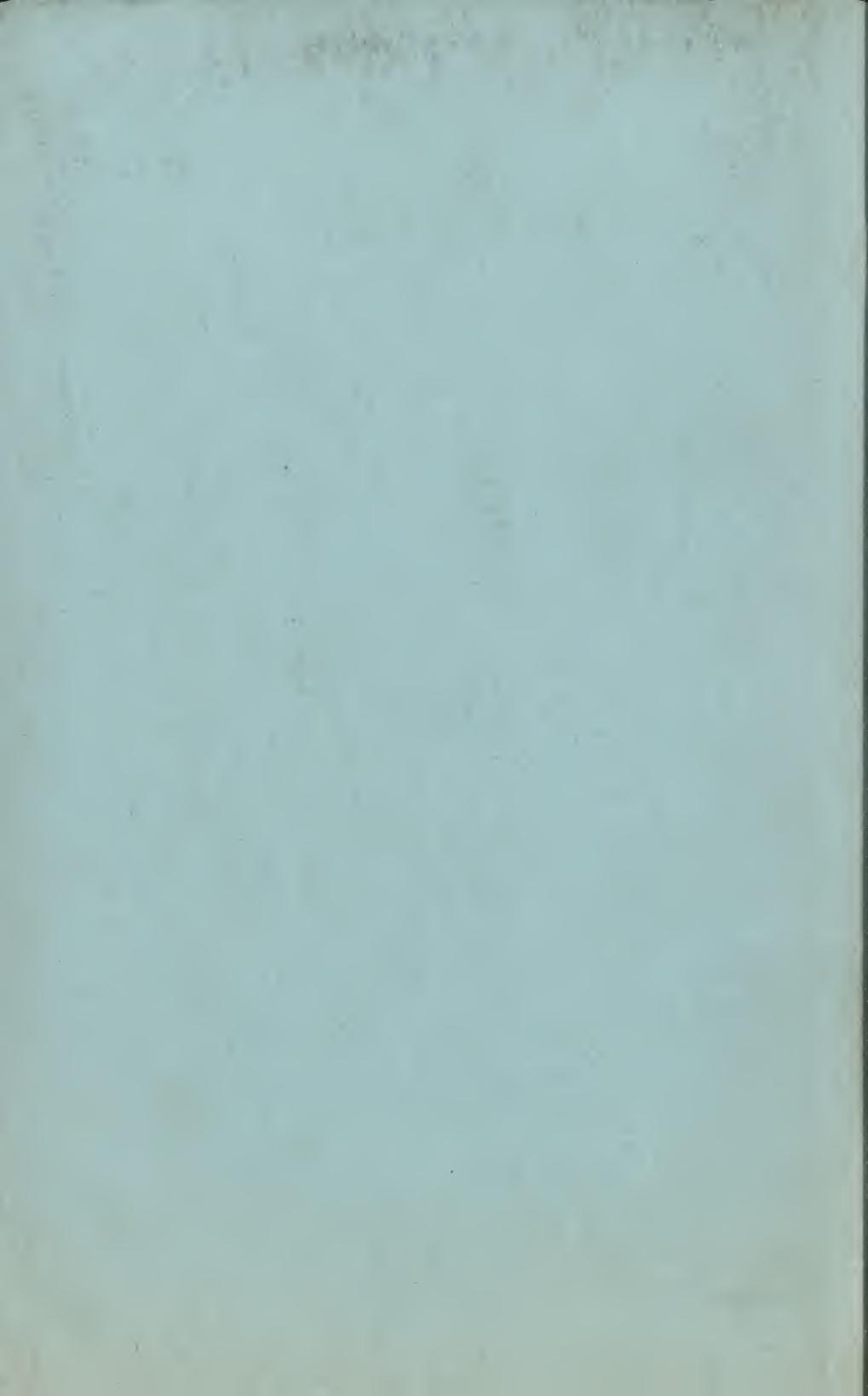
Wakeley, Mrs. Raymond	*Williams, Louis
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*Wight, Mrs. J. F.	

This is your notice of Society's annual meeting on the third Wednesday of January.

You are cordially invited to visit the Society's Headquarters.
We welcome new members.


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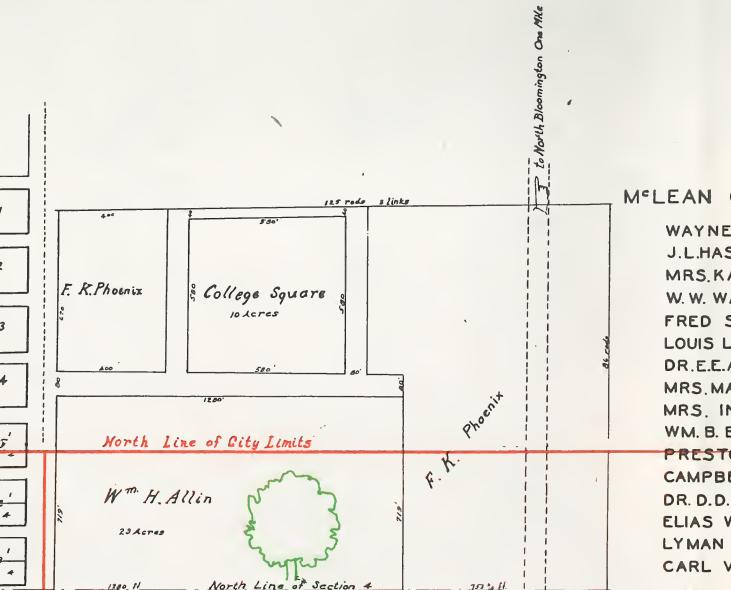
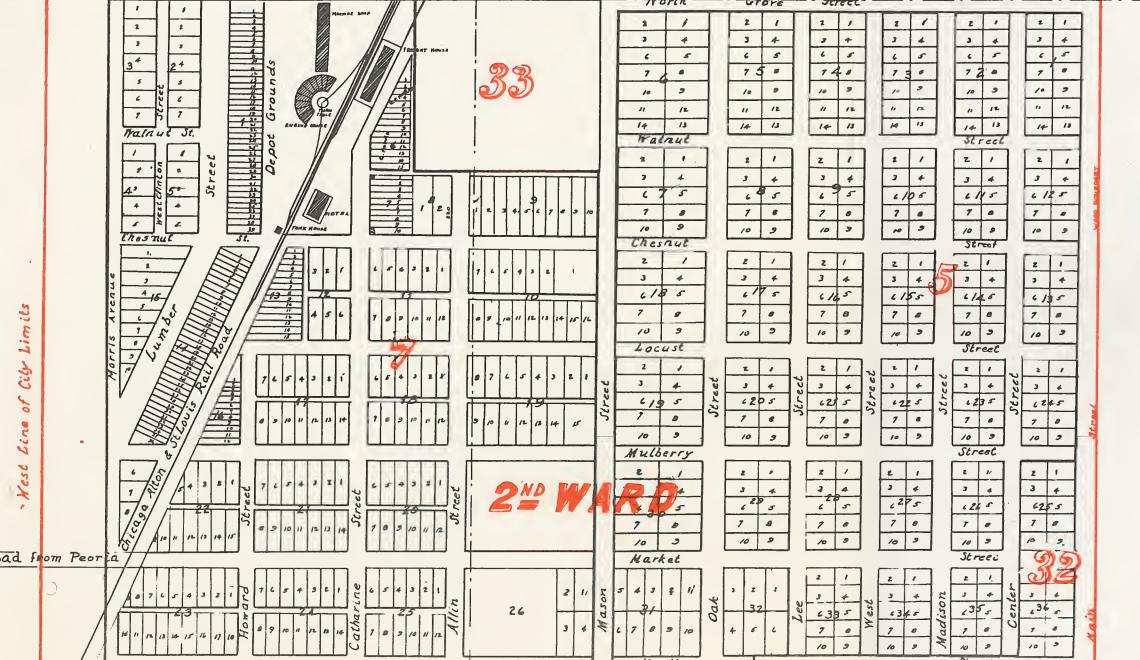
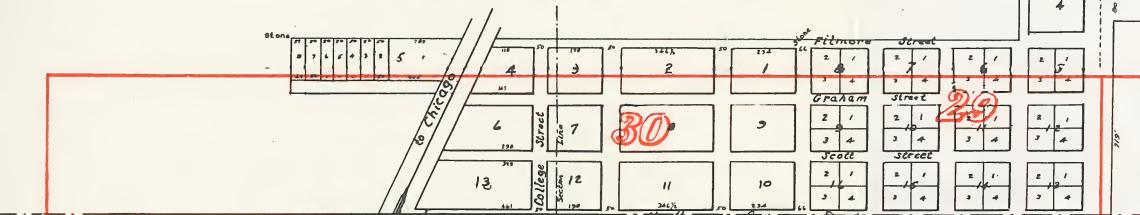


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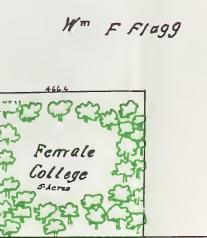
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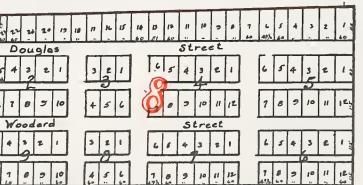
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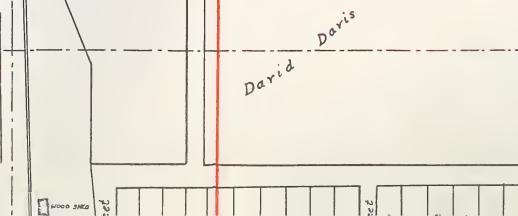
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William Dimmitt



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Davis



